

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-10

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SAM-01 /072 W

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R 110800Z JUN 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2084

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

UNCLAS BAGHDAD 630

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (SENATOR FULBRIGHT)

SUBJECT: FULBRIGHT VISIT TO IRAQ

1. SO FAR FULBRIGHT VISIT TO IRAQ AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS. FULBRIGHT'S SPECIAL PLANE FROM QATAR MET AT AIRPORT BY AMBASSADOR (WITHOUT PORTFOLIO) KHAISSY AND SENIOR MFA PROTOCOL OFFICERS, AS WELL AS USINT'S ACTING PRINCIPAL OFFICER AND ADMIN/CON OFFICER. SENATOR AND PARTY (MESSRS. THORPE AND KERN) ARE BEING HOUSED AT RASHID PALACE (WHERE KENNEDY'S PARTY STAYED). GOI PROVIDING ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING MERCEDES LIMOUSINES WITH MOTORCYCLE ESCORTS. UNOFFICIAL "GUIDE" FOR VISIT IS DR. GALAL RAMIZ, MFA OFFICIAL WHO IS EXCEPTIONALLY WELL-INFORMED AND PLEASANT (RAMIZ EDUCATED AT PRINCETON, HARVARD AND OXFORD). SCHEDULE SO FAR HAS BEEN VERY ELASTIC AND LEFT TO DISCRETION OF SENATOR.

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2. FIRST AFERNOON GOI HOSTED LUNCHEON AT RASHID PALACE

WITH SENATOR'S PARTY, DR. RAMIZ, PROTOCOL OFFICIAL MUALLA, AND ADMIN OFF USREY AND WIFE IN ATTENDANCE. PARTY LATER VISITED IRAQI MUSEUM FOLLOWED BY DINNER WITH RAMIZ AT PRIVATE RESTAURANT.

3. ON TUESDAY JUNE 10, SENATOR HAD LENGTHY MEETINGS WITH FORMIN HAMMADI AND PRESIDENT AL-BAKR. MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BAKR LASTED ONE HOUR AND RECEIVED WIDESPREAD MEDIA COVERAGE. TUESDAY'S AL-JUMHURIYEH CARRIED ARTICLE ON PAGE 4 SUMMARIZING SENATOR'S RESPONSES TO TWO QUESTIONS POSED BY IRAQI AGENCY REP AT AIRPORT ON ARRIVAL (SENATOR'S RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON PURPOSE HIS TOUR OF ARAB REGION WAS THAT HE WAS ATTEMPTING FAMILIARIZE HIMSELF WITH RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN AREA IN ORDER TO CONTRIBUTE TO POSSIBLE UNDERSTANDING OF ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM. RESPONSE TO SECOND QUESTION ON HIS POSITION RE LETTER TO FORD BY 76 SENATORS WAS THAT HE CRITICIZED TIMING AND CONTENT OF LETTER, EXPLAINING THAT IT WAS ATTEMPT BY ISRAELI SUPPORTERS TO ENLIST SUPPORT OF FORD DURING REAPPRAISAL). AL-JUMHURIYEH CARRIED SAME ARTICLE ON PAGE ONE. EVENING TV NEWS RAN FILM OF MEETING OF SENATOR WITH PRESIDENT AL-BAKR.

4. WEDNESDAY PRESS CONTINUED HEAVY COVERAGE OF VISIT. ARABIC AL-JUMHURIYEH, AL-TAKHRI AND AL-NABA ALL PUBLISHED FIRST PAGE PICTURES OF FULBRIGHT MEETING AT PRESIDENTIAL PALACE WITH AL-BAKR. ENGLISH LANGUAGE BAGHDAD OBSERVER ALSO RAN PICTURE (NO ARTICLE). EXCEPTION WAS ICP AL-NABA WHICH MADE NO MENTION OF VISIT EXCEPT THAT SENATOR CALLED ON PRESIDENT.

5. AS OF YET WE HAVE NOT HEARD RESULTS OF SENATOR'S WEDNESDAY MEETINGS. HOWEVER, BOTH SENATORS HAVE BEEN INVITED ATTEND LUNCHEON TODAY WITH SENATOR'S PARTY AT PRIVATE RESTAURANT AT WHICH TIME WE HOPE TO GET MORE DETAILS.
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